

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE A-10

THE NEW YORK TIMES  
18 DECEMBER 1982

## *U.S. Aide Calls Evidence Heavy*

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 — The Reagan Administration's senior specialist on Soviet affairs said today that "the evidence looks pretty heavy" that the Bulgarian intelligence service was involved in the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II last year.

Richard Pipes, who spent his last day on the staff of the National Security Council today before returning to a

teaching post at Harvard University, said, "The verdict isn't in yet, but there seems to have been Bulgarian involvement."

Mr. Pipes, who said his conclusions were based on information that has been disseminated in the press and not on intelligence reports, added, "If the Bulgarian intelligence service was involved there is little doubt that the K.G.B. would know." The K.G.B. is the Soviet intelligence agency.

Mr. Pipes said, however, that as far as he knew, there was no hard evidence linking the assassination attempt to the Soviet Union.

In addition, he said, no evidence has appeared to date that would support theories that Yuri V. Andropov, the new Soviet leader and former head of the K.G.B., had approved of the assassination plot or was even aware of it.

A Bulgarian airline official, Sergei Ivanov Antonov, was arrested in Rome last month on suspicion of "active complicity" in the shooting of the Pope on May 13, 1981, by Mehmet Ali Agca, a Turk who is serving a life sentence for the attack.